

Vote NON to the unjustified communal tax increases.

Dear neighbour,

We have obtained the right to fight the communal tax increases through a referendum thanks to the wide support of our neighbours. **We will vote on 15 May.**

The argumentation of the authorities to increase communal taxes are based on historical stuff that is simply not current anymore. We did something tedious, but rather obvious, and analysed official and public documents to find out if the authorities had a case. They don't.

We are arguing based on facts and you can decide by yourself by using the references and links below. We have updated some numbers to reflect the latest situation.

The main argument of the authorities is that Bassins is overindebted. This is nonsense since as of 2021, our debt of CHF 4,765/inhabitant falls within the average of all communes in Vaud save Lausanne.

- The nominal debt is CHF 16.4 million or CHF 9,000/inhabitant in 2018. This was put forth as the reason to increase taxes¹. In 2019, a study by the cantonal authorities² was used as a back-up to make it alarming.
- Today the debt stands at CHF 16 million (including the CHF 2.2 million debt related to the pool). It happens that the school facilities including the pool represent 61% of the nominal debt or CHF 9.8 million³. The debt would be only CHF 6.1 million without it.
- These CHF 9.8 million are in our accounts – since geographically located here. New school statutes put in place in 2021⁴ changed how this debt is serviced. There are now 10 villages that have taken over the debt. We approximately pay a tenth of it or about CHF 1 million.
- Our actual debt is thus, CHF 6.1 million plus that CHF 1 million related to the school infrastructure – CHF 7.1 million.
- This equates to CHF 4,765/inhabitant, below the Vaud average.

Another municipal argument is that the village is short of cash. Nonsense again. It has reserves of CHF 1.4 million of which, CHF 700 thousand in cash.⁵

One needs to wonder why this is even happening since we are not in financial trouble. The authorities have just been elected on the promise of cleaning up the village finances. The smart new school statutes have already taken care of this. **Indeed, as they increased "taxes**

1 Préavis Municipal n°10/21 relatif à l'arrêté d'imposition pour l'année 2022 et Rapport de la commission des finances du conseil de Bassins

2 Rapport sur les finances communales vaudoises en 2019

3 Bilans comparés Comptes 2020 et 2019 page 5 – Rubriques 9221.10, 9221.14, 9221.17, 9221.18, 9221.2, 9221.20, 9221.21, 9221.22, 9221.26, 9221.34, 9221.36, 9221.39

4 Nouveaux statuts de l'Association Intercommunale Scolaire de l'Esplanade Préavis N°02/2021

5 Bilans comparés Comptes 2020 et 2019 page 6 – Rubrique 9280

to reduce the debt”, they have absurdly, or cynically, asked the canton to increase the debt ceiling⁶.

The authorities are new, but they are managing our affairs, one could argue, approximatively. They have let go the experienced office staff and outsourced services more expensively. They do not issue water or trash bills although being in “financial crisis” mode. They busy themselves questioning historical decisions at the expense of planning the future. The mayor is under leave of absence.

To put it simply: there is no financial crisis or issue. We should not sign blank cheques.

We thus urge you and thank you for voting “NON” to refute the tax increase.

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⁶ Préavis Municipal n°15/21 relatif à la fixation du plafond d’endettement pour la législature 2021-2026